

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 /074 W

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R 171555Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4487

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

MBABANE 310

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, RH

SUBJECT: SMITH-VORSTER MEETING

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER IAN SMITH AND MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET BEGAN MEETINGS MORNING MARCH 17 WITH SAG OFFICIALS, LED BY PRIME MINISTER VORSTER. TALKS TAKING PLACE IN TENSE ATMOSPHERE GENERATED BY BREAKDOWN IN SETTLEMENT TALKS, WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE FROM RHODESIAN COMBAT, AND APPARENT RHODESIAN ATTEMPTS TO FOMENT WHITE BACKLASH IN SOUTH AFRICA. END SUMMARY.

2. PRIME MINISTER VORSTER MET MORNING MARCH 17 WITH RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER IAN SMITH IN CAPE TOWN. SMITH  
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ACCOMPANIED BY RHODESIAN MINISTERS OF DEFENSE (VAN DER BYL),

INTERNAL AFFAIRS (MUSSETT), AND INFORMATION (DE KOCK). JOINING VORSTER FOR MEETING WERE SAG MINISTERS OF DEFENSE (P.W. BOTHA), FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MULLER), AND POLICE (KRUGER). TALKS ARE EXPECTED TO LAST UNTIL LATE AFTERNOON MARCH 17, WHEN A COMMUNIQUE MAY BE ISSUED.

3. MEETING COMES AT OBVIOUSLY CRITICAL JUNCTURE IN SAG-RHODESIA RELATIONS. IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND IN PRIVATE COMMENTS, SAG OFFICIALS HAVE MADE CLEAR THEIR DISSATISFACTION WITH RHODESIA MONKEY-WRENCHING OF DETENTE MACHINERY. IN PARTICULAR, SAG UPSET BY BREAKDOWN OF RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT TALKS AS RESULT OF SITHOLE'S ARREST.

4. SAG ALSO APPARENTLY SUSPICIOUS THAT RHODESIAN GOVT ACTIVELY ATTEMPTING TO ENCOURAGE WHITE BACKLASH IN SOUTH AFRICA AGAINST WHAT MOST WHITE RHODESIANS AND LOCAL RIGHT-WINGERS VIEW AS VORSTER'S "SELLOUT" OF RHODESIA. THIS SUSPICION HAS BEEN GENERATED BY RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES BY HIGH-RANKING RHODESIAN OFFICIALS, ESPECIALLY MINISTER OF HEALTH ROWAN CRONJE AND GENERAL PETER WALLS, COMANDER OF THE RHODESIAN ARMY. CRONJE, AN AFRIKANER, HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN HERSTIGTE NASIONAWE PARTY (HNP), A HIGHLY-VOCAL AND CRITICAL ARCH-CONSERVATIVE POLITICAL GROUP WHICH BROKE AWAY FROM VORSTER'S NATIONAL PARTY IN 1969.

5. IN A RECENT SPEECH, GENERAL WALLS STATED THAT RHODESIA HAD DECIDED TO EMBARK ON A SETTLEMENT COURSE WITH THE AFRICAN NATIONALISTS AS A RESULT OF SAG PRESSURE. HE ARGUES THAT IF SETTLEMENT TALKS FAILED IT WOULD BE SOUTH AFRICAN'S "MORAL DUTY" TO COME TO RHODESIA'S AID. WALLS' STATEMENT WAS LAMBASTED IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS. AFRIKAANS NEWSPAPERS, IN PARTICULAR, REJECTED HIS ALLEGATION THAT, IN THE WORDS OF THE BEELD, RHODESIA HAD BEEN "INVEIGLED" INTO SETTLEMENT ATTEMPTS. DIE VADERLAND DECRIED HIS "OPEN FISHING FOR SYMPATHY." OTHERS STATED, IN EFFECT, THAT RHODESIA HAD MADE ITS OWN BED AND NOW MUST SLEEP IN IT.

6. ACCORDING TO SUNDAY TIMES POLITICAL COLUMIST HENNIE SERFONTEIN, BUREAU FOR STATE SECURITY CHIEF, GENERAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HENDRIK VAN DEN BURGH, HAS SOUGHT TO FORESTALL WHITE BACK-LASH BY ISSUING CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENT TO HIGHLY CONSERVATIVE AFRIKAANS SECRET SOCIETY, THE BROEDERBOND. SERFONTEIN SAYS DOCUMENT ASSERTS THAT RHODESIA MUST ACCEPT THAT ITS OWN POLICIES HAVE LED TO THE INEVITABILITY OF BLACK MAJORITY RULE WITHIN NEXT FEW YEARS.  
HURD

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**Draft Date:** 17 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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